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— The Massachusetts Board of Health have undertaken to make an investigation into the laws of the hereditary transmission of disease, and have issued a circular with a blank, which has been prepared for the collection of statistics, upon which can be based an investigation of the laws governing the inheritance of pathological conditions, abnormal characteristics of all kinds, and any family characteristics or peculiarities sufficiently marked to have been made the subject of observation. Those who may be interested in helping in the matter should apply to Prof. Alpheus Hyatt, Boston Society of Natural History, Boston, Mass., for the circular and blank, and return them when answered to the same address.

— The Summer School of the Johns Hopkins University will be located, the present summer, near the mouth of Chesapeake bay. Prof. Baird, of the Fish Commission, has given it the use of a steamer for dredging purposes, and the students will board on barges anchored in the bay. We have received, from time to time, Directions for Laboratory Work of the Teachers' Class in Elementary Zoölogy at the University. They are prepared by Prof. W. K. Brooks, on the general plan of Huxley and Martin's Biology, and seem to serve the purpose of giving the student a thorough, well-grounded knowledge of structural zoölogy, and we doubt if any other college would show more care and thoroughness in teaching. A few copies are for sale at the University.

— The great work of G. W. Tryon, Jr., on the Mollusca, has reached the third part of the *Cephalopoda*.

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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES, May 19.—Papers were read by Dr. R. P. Stevens on the corrugation of peat-marsh by pressure, and by S. W. Ford on the composition of the primordial fauna.

May 26.—Prof. J. S. Newberry made a communication on the former Cretaceous and Tertiary margin of the continent east of New York. Prof. D. S. Martin noticed the occurrence of Devonian beds at Monroe, Orange county New York.

MIDDLESEX SCIENTIFIC FIELD CLUB, MALDEN, MASS., June 4.—Frank S. Collins read a paper on the best methods of gathering and preserving sea weeds. L. L. Dame mentioned the occurrence of *Clematis* (*Atrage*ne) *verticillaris* in Medford. This plant has not before been recorded from Middlesex county. Miss Martha Silvester made some remarks on the genus *Viola*. A paper on the importance of visiting the large museums was presented by

M. A. Hardaker. She advocated the use of these museums, as the members would there learn by illustration the system used in Zoölogy, etc. H. L. Moody presented a list of eighteen species and one variety of *Solidago* found in Malden and vicinity, and made some remarks on doubtful species. Mr. Moody also mentioned that he had bred *Capnochroa fuliginosa* from the larva. The larva does not differ from the usual Cistelidous type. He had attempted to breed *Capnia pygmaria* and a species of *Gordius* from eggs. The young *Capnia* were destroyed by other larvæ when of an age to be readily seen by the unaided eye. The *Gordius* larvæ are still alive.

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SELECTED ARTICLES IN SCIENTIFIC SERIALS.

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF SCIENCE AND ARTS—June. The forests of Central Nevada, with some remarks on those of the adjacent regions, by C. S. Sargent. Notice of recent additions to the marine fauna of North America, No. 5, by A. E. Verrill. Polydactyle horses, recent and extinct, by O. C. Marsh.

THE JOURNAL OF CONCHOLOGY—May. Notes on the habits and distribution of certain West Indian Pulmonifera, by J. S. Gibbons.

ANNALES DES SCIENCES NATURELLES, VIII, Nos. 2, 3.—1878. Organization and development of some endoparasitic marine Trematodes, by M. Villot. Migrations and metamorphoses of the *Tæniæ* of moles (*Sorex*), by M. Villot. Dredgings off Marseilles, by M. Marion.

SIEBOLD UND KÖLLIKER'S ZEITSCHRIFT FÜR WISSENSCHAFTLICHE ZOOLOGIE.—May 26. Studies on the development of Sponges, by E. Metschnikoff. On the means by which mammals adhere and move upwards by atmospheric pressure on more or less perpendicular surfaces, by O. Monike. Contribution to a knowledge of the reproductive organs of free-living Copepoda, by A. Gruber. Researches on the finer structure of the digestive canal of *Emys europæa*, by J. Machate.

PSYCHE.—May, June. The anatomy of *Amblychila cylindriciformis*, by C. F. Gissler.

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ERRATA.—Page 141, in *third* line of second paragraph, before the word "during" and after the word "well," in the *ninth* line, insert "quotation marks."
 Page 142, *sixth* line from bottom of page, read "through being more," instead of "though more."
 Page 147, *fourth* line from bottom of page, omit the word "specific."
 Page 154, second paragraph, *last* word in *last* line, read "west" instead of "east."
 Page 417, first paragraph *second* line, the word "south" should follow after "neighborhood."
 Page 415, second paragraph *fourth* line, insert the word "an" before the word "increased."
 Page 416, first paragraph *fifth* line from bottom, for "twist" read "twists."
 Page 418, under the figure, for "Darley" read "Barley."
 Page 419, second paragraph *fifth* line from bottom, after the word "spikelet" in the parenthesis, add "and fifteen to thirty spikelets in a single head."